



# May - Jewish American Heritage Month

*You are cordially invited to attend a luncheon in*

## Tribute to American Jewry

**Honoring leaders of the Jewish community**



**~ Keynote Speaker ~  
Senator Marco Rubio**

**Wednesday, May 16, 2012 1:00 PM**

*LBJ Room (S-211) United States Capitol, Washington, DC*

*This event will express appreciation to the Congress of the United States for its resolution proclaiming May - Jewish American Heritage Month.*

Invitation Non-Transferrable - Limited Seating  
**Absolutely no contributions will be solicited or accepted.**

RSVP: [Tribute@TheFriedlanderGroup.com](mailto:Tribute@TheFriedlanderGroup.com)  
212-233-5555 Ext.202

Entrance will only be permitted through the Senate side of the United States Capitol with proper photo I.D.

Please allow 15 minutes for security clearance

### ~ SPECIAL GUESTS ~



**Phil Friedman:** In 1984, Phil Friedman, founded Computer Generated Solutions (CGS). The company offers diversified IT solutions and services providing software, consulting, systems integration, training and help desk support. Friedman began his company with five employees, and now he manages close to 5,000 professionals in North and South America, Europe and Asia delivering services to over 40 countries, everyday. Born in the Soviet Union, Phil Friedman was denied religious freedom, having to learn Hebrew for his Bar Mitzvah in secret. After living in the United States, where can openly observe their heritage, Friedman has been a big supporter of Jewish education. He set up the Alexander Friedman ScholarshipFund which awards scholarships each year to students at Yeshiva University.



**Rabbi Elie Abadie:** Rabbi Abadie comes from a long and distinguished rabbinical lineage dating back to fifteenth century Spain and Provence. Following the expulsion of Jews from Spain and later Provence his family migrated throughout the ages through Italy, the Balkans, Greece, Turkey, Syria, and Lebanon. Rabbi Abadie was born in Beirut Lebanon, and grew up in Mexico City, coming to the United States to attend Yeshiva University. Rabbi Abadie is the founding Rabbi of the Edmond J. Safra Synagogue. He is also the Director of the Jacob E. Safra Institute of Sephardic Studies, at Yeshiva University and is a scholar and college teacher of Sephardic Judaism, history, philosophy, and comparative traditional law. Rabbi Abadie follows in the footsteps of the greatest Jewish scholar and philosopher Moses Maimonides, as he is both a rabbi and a physician. Rabbi Abadie maintains a practice in internal medicine and gastroenterology.



**Rabbi Abe Friedman:** For over fifteen years, Rabbi Abe Friedman has been a Chaplain/Community Liaison to many law enforcement agencies in New York and New Jersey including the NYPD, NJSP, MTA Police/Homeland Security, several sheriff's departments and many other state and federal agencies. In that capacity, Rabbi Friedman offers spiritual advice and his expertise enabling these agencies to build positive relationships with different faith based community groups throughout New York and New Jersey.

After 9/11, Rabbi Friedman was involved with providing spiritual advice and counseling to law enforcement members who were involved in the search and rescue mission at the World Trade Center as well as working with the American Red Cross. Rabbi Friedman is also involved in numerous charitable organizations that assist the poor and the sick by improving their quality of life. Rabbi Friedman has also been the owner of Brooklyn based All Care Management since 2002, directing a team of over seventy employees who manage a group of condominiums and cooperative apartments.



**Rabbi Simcha Scholar:** Rabbi Simcha Scholar is the executive vice president of Chai Lifeline, the international not-for-profit organization that provides crucial health support services to seriously ill children, their families and communities. Under his direction and guidance, Chai Lifeline has grown from a single program to a year-round organization with offices throughout the United States and Israel as well as affiliates in Europe and Canada. Chai Lifeline helps more than 4,000 children with life-threatening or lifelong illnesses and their families. Rabbi Scholar is a renowned speaker who has lectured widely throughout the United States and is the author of many articles on easing the lives of children and families in pain.



**Alyza Lewin:** Alyza Lewin practices law, together with her father, Nathan Lewin, at Lewin & Lewin, LLP specializing in litigation and government relations. Her work involves criminal defense and civil litigation matters. Her clients include individuals and corporations under investigation by the Department of Justice, individuals who have been denied a security clearance and government employees who are the subject of inquiries relating to their official duties. Ms. Lewin began her law career in Israel where she clerked on the Supreme Court for Deputy President Justice Menachem Elon. In December 2011, Ms. Lewin was elected President of the American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists ("AAJLJ"). Ms. Lewin served on the Board of Directors of the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington from 2001-2007. She served on the Board of Directors of the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia from 2001-2004.

### Master of Ceremony



**Rabbi Joseph Potasnik:** Rabbi Potasnik is the Executive Vice President of the New York Board of Rabbis, the largest interdenominational body of its kind in the world. He is also the chaplain of the New York City Fire Department and the Fraternal Order of Police, where he has helped many families cope with the disaster of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001. Rabbi Potasnik is also the chaplain of the New York Press Club and serves on the New York City Human Rights Commission. Rabbi Potasnik has helped many Americans with the challenges that are faced today a with his publish articles, radio program-"Religion on the Line", and television program "Faith to Faith".

### BACKGROUND

The first Jews to arrive to the United States of America were from Spain and Portugal. Many made the journey in order to avoid forced conversions in their native lands. In 1649, Solomon Franco, became the second Jew to visit the new world. Although he faced many struggles in his short journey, he nevertheless paved the way for other Jews to come to the Americas. In 1775, Haym Soloman, a Portuguese Jew, immigrated to New York. He is credited with financing the revolutionary war, starting the long practice of Jewish support of the United States.

Today we celebrate those Jewish Americans who continue to uphold the 360 year tradition of supporting the United States. These individuals have contributed to American society in countless ways. Their participation in human rights and health services save so many lives. Their interest in arts and entertainment brings beauty to the United States. Their involvement in business and unions sustain many people's livelihoods. Their push for innovation drives new technology. Their hold on justice and fairness keeps communities safe. Their association with government and military service protects and supports Americans. We wish to honor all those Jews who embody American ideals.